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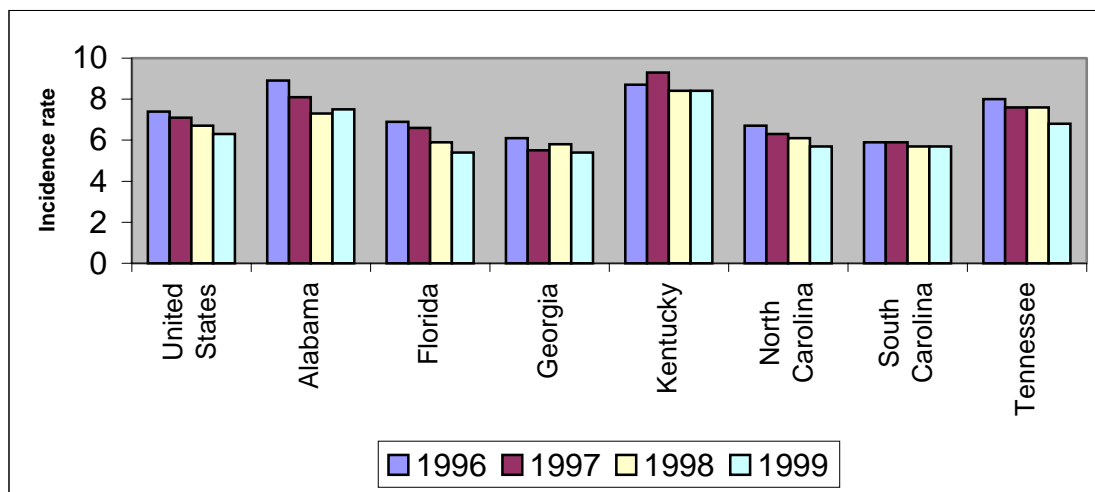
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### Workplace Injuries and Illnesses in the Southeast, 1999

Just over one million nonfatal injuries and illnesses occurred in private industry workplaces in seven southeastern<sup>1</sup> states according to a survey by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that these seven states covered approximately 18 percent of the nation's private sector workforce and accounted for a similar percentage of the nation's nonfatal injury and illness cases. The incidence rate or frequency of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time equivalent workers ranged from 8.4 in Kentucky to 5.4 in Florida and Georgia. State rates are influenced by a number of factors including the mix of industries located in a state and the number of hours worked by people employed in those industries.

Chart A. Incidence rates<sup>1</sup> of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses for private industry in the United States and southeastern states<sup>2</sup>, 1996-99.



<sup>1</sup> The incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers and were calculated as:  $(N/EH) \times 200,000$ , where  
 N = number of injuries and illnesses  
 EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year  
 200,000 = base for 100 equivalent full-time workers  
 (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

<sup>2</sup> Data for Mississippi are not available.

<sup>1</sup> Southeast includes eight states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee; however, workplace injury and illness data for Mississippi are not available.

Nationwide, there were 5.7 million injuries and illnesses reported during 1999 which resulted in an incidence rate of 6.3 cases per 100 full-time workers, down from 6.7 in the previous year. Four states in the Southeast had rates below the national average—Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Within the region, rates for the seven states varied little, if at all, between 1998 and 1999.

Injury and illness incidence rates are calculated based on the number of reported cases and the hours worked by all employees in a calendar year. Although employment increased by 583,000 in the Southeast in 1999, total cases remained approximately the same as in the previous year. Florida recorded the largest number of cases (285,800) consistent with having the highest employment level in the Southeast. Among the other reporting states, North Carolina was second with 160,000 cases, followed by Georgia (148,900), Tennessee (129,700), Kentucky (102,900), Alabama (101,400), and South Carolina (71,900).

### **Industry rates**

Among private industry divisions nationwide, manufacturing had the highest incidence rate in 1999 at 9.2 cases per 100 full-time workers. In the Southeast, incidence rates in manufacturing ranged from 13.6 in Kentucky to 6.8 in South Carolina. Of the seven participating states, Kentucky, Alabama and Tennessee reported incidence rates higher than the national average for manufacturing injuries and illnesses. Manufacturing rates may vary among states due to differences in the type of manufacturing occurring in individual states.

The construction industry also had a relatively high national incidence rate at 8.6 cases per 100 workers. Among the southeastern states, Kentucky's incidence rate in construction (8.4) was about the same as the nationwide average for that industry, while the remaining states ranged from 7.9 cases per 100 workers in Alabama to 6.1 in South Carolina.

Among the other industry divisions, transportation and public utilities reported an incidence rate of 7.3 cases per 100 workers at the national level. Rates for this industry in the Southeast ranged from 8.0 cases per 100 workers in Tennessee to 5.6 in Georgia. Services, on the other hand, had one of the lowest national rates at 4.9 cases per 100 workers. Five of the seven states—Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee--had a rate in services comparable to the nationwide average.

### **Lost workday rates**

For the nation, the total lost workday rate (the incidence of injuries and illnesses that were sufficiently serious to require recuperation away from work or restricted duties at work, or both) was 3.0 cases per 100 workers in 1999. Among the reporting states in the Southeast region, the incidence rate of lost workday cases ranged from 2.3 cases per 100 workers in Georgia to 4.1 in Kentucky.

Nationally, manufacturing's lost workday rate was 4.6 cases per 100 workers in 1999. In the seven Southeastern states, the rate for lost work day cases in manufacturing was highest in Kentucky at 6.9 cases per 100 workers. Four states had a lost workday rate below that for the nation—Florida, North Carolina, Georgia and South Carolina.

## Technical Note

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses is a Federal/State program in which employer reports are collected from about 174,000 private industry establishments and processed by state agencies cooperating with the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational injury and illness data for coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for railroad activities were provided by the Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration and the Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration. The survey measures nonfatal injuries and illnesses only. The survey excludes the self-employed; farms with fewer than 11 employees; private households; and employees in Federal agencies. National estimates also exclude employees in state and local government agencies. Some states (including Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee) produce separate estimates combining private industry and state and local government agencies.

Specific state data are available from the following southeastern state agencies participating with BLS in the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses.

### State agencies

Alabama Department of Labor  
Florida Department of Labor and Employment Security  
Georgia Department of Labor  
Kentucky Labor Cabinet  
North Carolina Department of Labor  
South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation  
Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development

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The survey provides estimates of the number and frequency (incidence rates) of workplace injuries and illnesses based on logs kept by employers during the year. These records reflect not only the year's injury and illness experience, but also the employer's understanding of which cases are work related under current recordkeeping guidelines of the U.S. Department of Labor. The number of injuries and illnesses reported in any given year also can be influenced by the level of economic activity, working conditions and work practices, worker experience and training, and the number of hours worked.

The survey measures the number of new work-related illness cases which are recognized, diagnosed, and reported during the year. Some conditions (for example, long-term latent illnesses caused by exposure to carcinogens) often are difficult to relate to the workplace and are not adequately recognized and reported. These long-term latent illnesses are believed to be understated in the survey's illness measures. In contrast, the overwhelming majority of the reported new illnesses are those that are easier to directly relate to workplace activity (for example, contact dermatitis or carpal tunnel syndrome).

Establishments are classified in industry categories based on the 1987 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) Manual, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget. The survey estimates of occupational injuries and illnesses are based on a scientifically selected probability sample, rather than a census of the entire population. Because the data are based on a sample survey, the injury and illness estimates probably differ from the figures that would be obtained from all units covered by the survey. To determine the precision of each estimate, a standard error was calculated. The standard error defines a range (confidence interval) around the estimate. The approximate 95-percent confidence as a percent of the

estimate, or the relative standard error. For example, the 95-percent confidence interval for an incidence rate of 6.5 per 100 full-time workers with a relative standard error of 1.0 percent would be 6.5 plus or minus 2 percent (2 times 1.0 percent) or 6.37 to 6.63. One can be 95 percent confident that the "true" incidence rate falls within the confidence interval. The 1999 incidence rate for all occupational injuries and illnesses of 6.3 per 100 full-time workers in private industry has an estimated relative standard error of about 0.6 percent. A relative standard error was calculated for each estimate from the survey. Relative standard errors for national injury and illness data will be published in a BLS bulletin that is scheduled to be available at a later date. Relative standard errors for state data may be obtained by contacting individual state agencies.

The data also are subject to nonsampling error. The inability to obtain information about all cases in the sample, mistakes in recording or coding the data, and definition difficulties are examples of nonsampling error in the survey. Nonsampling errors are not measured. However, BLS has implemented quality assurance procedures to minimize nonsampling error in the survey.

The goods-producing sector consists of the following industry divisions: agriculture, forestry, and fishing; mining; construction; and manufacturing. The service-producing sector includes the following industry divisions: transportation and public utilities; trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and services. BLS has generated estimates of injuries and illnesses combined and of injuries alone for nearly all 2-, 3-, and, for manufacturing, 4-digit private sector industries as defined in the 1987 edition of the *Standard Industrial Classification Manual*. We encourage users interested in learning more about occupational safety and health statistics to call our information office at (404) 331-3415. Data for both fatal and nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses are available on the BLS Internet site at <http://www.bls.gov/osshome.htm>.

Table 1. Incidence rates<sup>1</sup> of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses for the United States and selected southeastern states and private industry divisions, 1999

Industry	United States		Alabama		Florida		Georgia	
	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>
Private industry <sup>3</sup>	6.3	3.0	7.5	3.4	5.4	2.4	5.4	2.3
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing <sup>3</sup>	7.3	3.4	9.8	4.9	7.0	3.0	6.3	2.7
Mining <sup>4</sup>	4.4	2.7	9.7	5.5	3.5	2.3	2.5	1.4
Construction	8.6	4.2	7.9	3.3	7.5	3.8	6.9	3.7
Manufacturing	9.2	4.6	10.2	5.1	7.7	3.9	7.9	3.6
Transportation and public utilities <sup>4</sup>	7.3	4.4	5.8	3.4	6.0	3.8	5.6	3.3
Wholesale and retail trade	6.1	2.7	7.7	3.1	5.4	2.4	5.2	1.9
Finance, insurance, and real estate	1.8	0.8	1.8	0.6	2.7	0.9	1.4	0.5
Services	4.9	2.2	5.9	2.2	4.7	1.9	4.2	1.6

Industry	Kentucky		North Carolina		South Carolina		Tennessee	
	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>
Private industry <sup>3</sup>	8.4	4.1	5.7	2.6	5.7	2.7	6.8	3.4
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing <sup>3</sup>	8.7	4.3	6.8	2.5	5.5	2.7	6.1	2.8
Mining <sup>4</sup>	7.3	5.7	2.8	1.7	2.5	1.6	4.5	3.1
Construction	8.4	3.8	6.2	2.6	6.1	3.3	7.2	3.6
Manufacturing	13.6	6.9	7.6	3.7	6.8	3.1	9.9	5.1
Transportation and public utilities <sup>4</sup>	7.1	4.8	6.9	4.0	5.9	3.6	8.0	5.1
Wholesale and retail trade	7.1	2.9	5.3	2.2	5.9	2.5	6.0	2.8
Finance, insurance, and real estate	1.3	0.4	1.3	0.4	1.2	0.5	2.3	1.2
Services	6.3	2.9	4.5	1.7	5.1	2.4	5.1	2.3

<sup>1</sup> The incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100

full-time workers and were calculated as: (N/EH) x 200,000, where

N = number of injuries and illnesses

EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year

200,000 = base for 100 full-time workers

(working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

<sup>2</sup> Total lost workday cases involve days away from work, or days of restricted work activity, or both.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

<sup>4</sup> Data conforming to OSHA definitions for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for employers in railroad transportation are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor; and the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries.

**Table 2. Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses for the United States and selected southeastern states and private industry divisions, 1999**

(thousands)

Industry	United States			Alabama		
	1999 Annual average employ- ment <sup>1</sup>	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>	1999 Annual average employ- ment <sup>1</sup>	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>
<b>Private industry<sup>3</sup></b>	107,611.8	5,707.2	2,742.8	1,538.2	101.4	45.6
<b>Agriculture, forestry, and fishing<sup>3</sup></b>	1,860.7	105.0	48.8	19.8	1.6	0.8
<b>Mining<sup>4</sup></b>	535.4	24.4	14.9	9.8	0.9	0.5
<b>Construction</b>	6,337.3	501.4	243.8	104.3	7.9	3.3
<b>Manufacturing</b>	18,538.4	1,706.1	848.0	368.8	37.7	18.9
<b>Transportation and public utilities<sup>4</sup></b>	6,578.1	466.9	284.1	90.7	5.7	3.4
<b>Wholesale and retail trade</b>	29,715.7	1,459.4	648.8	444.7	27.4	11.2
<b>Finance, insurance, and real estate</b>	7,399.5	124.6	51.6	84.7	1.4	0.5
<b>Services</b>	36,374.0	1,319.5	602.8	415.5	18.8	7.0

Industry	Florida			Georgia		
	1999 Annual average employ- ment <sup>1</sup>	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>	1999 Annual average employ- ment <sup>1</sup>	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>
<b>Private industry<sup>3</sup></b>	5,887.3	285.8	130.0	3,220.2	148.9	64.4
<b>Agriculture, forestry, and fishing<sup>3</sup></b>	154.9	9.5	4.1	42.8	2.3	1.0
<b>Mining<sup>4</sup></b>	6.2	0.3	0.2	8.1	0.2	0.1
<b>Construction</b>	365.9	26.7	13.6	198.0	13.2	7.1
<b>Manufacturing</b>	488.3	37.2	19.0	593.8	47.0	21.7
<b>Transportation and public utilities<sup>4</sup></b>	342.5	20.0	12.6	249.3	12.5	7.3
<b>Wholesale and retail trade</b>	1,715.1	80.7	35.4	956.5	41.6	15.4
<b>Finance, insurance, and real estate</b>	439.8	10.9	3.8	197.5	2.6	0.9
<b>Services</b>	2,350.2	100.7	41.3	963.8	29.5	11.0

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 2. Number of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses for the United States and selected southeastern states and private industry divisions, 1999 - Continued**

(thousands)

Industry	Kentucky			North Carolina		
	1999 Annual average employ- ment <sup>1</sup>	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>	1999 Annual average employ- ment <sup>1</sup>	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>
<b>Private industry<sup>3</sup></b>	1,455.5	102.9	50.2	3,214.8	160.0	72.0
<b>Agriculture, forestry, and fishing<sup>3</sup></b>	15.8	1.1	0.5	51.7	3.0	1.1
<b>Mining<sup>4</sup></b>	21.4	1.6	1.3	3.9	0.1	0.1
<b>Construction</b>	86.7	6.7	3.0	226.7	13.6	5.7
<b>Manufacturing</b>	320.8	43.8	22.2	801.3	60.8	30.0
<b>Transportation and public utilities<sup>4</sup></b>	100.2	6.5	4.4	173.9	11.6	6.8
<b>Wholesale and retail trade</b>	427.4	24.3	10.0	877.4	38.5	16.4
<b>Finance, insurance, and real estate</b>	70.2	0.8	0.3	180.4	2.2	0.7
<b>Services</b>	410.0	18.2	8.5	898.9	30.3	11.3

Industry	South Carolina			Tennessee		
	1999 Annual average employ- ment <sup>1</sup>	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>	1999 Annual average employ- ment <sup>1</sup>	Total cases	Total lost workday cases <sup>2</sup>
<b>Private industry<sup>3</sup></b>	1,488.9	71.9	33.5	2,254.8	129.7	65.2
<b>Agriculture, forestry, and fishing<sup>3</sup></b>	19.5	0.9	0.4	18.6	1.0	0.4
<b>Mining<sup>4</sup></b>	1.9	(5)	(5)	4.3	0.2	0.1
<b>Construction</b>	112.7	6.4	3.4	123.5	8.5	4.2
<b>Manufacturing</b>	343.6	23.9	10.7	509.3	51.1	26.3
<b>Transportation and public utilities<sup>4</sup></b>	87.6	5.0	3.0	167.7	12.6	8.0
<b>Wholesale and retail trade</b>	436.1	20.3	8.7	631.4	29.2	13.6
<b>Finance, insurance, and real estate</b>	79.5	0.9	0.4	129.0	2.8	1.4
<b>Services</b>	403.2	14.5	6.8	669.3	24.5	11.0

<sup>1</sup> Employment is expressed as an annual average and is derived primarily from the BLS-State Covered Employment and Wages program. Employment in private households (SIC 88) is excluded.

<sup>2</sup> Total lost workday cases involve days away from work, or days of restricted work activity, or both.

<sup>3</sup> Excludes farms with fewer than 11 workers.

<sup>4</sup> Data conforming to OSHA definitions for mining operators in coal, metal, and nonmetal mining and for employers in railroad transportation are provided to BLS by the Mine Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor; and the Federal Railroad Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation. Independent mining contractors are excluded from the coal, metal, and nonmetal mining industries.

<sup>5</sup> Fewer than 50 cases.

**Table 3. Incidence rates<sup>1</sup> of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by selected case types for the United States and selected southeastern states, private industry<sup>2</sup>, 1996-99**

Location	Total cases				Lost workday cases								1999
					Total <sup>3</sup>				With days away from work <sup>4</sup>				
	1996	1997	1998	1999	1996	1997	1998	1999	1996	1997	1998	1999	
United States	7.4	7.1	6.7	6.3	3.4	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	
Alabama	8.9	8.1	7.3	7.5	4.0	3.6	3.4	3.4	2.5	2.2	1.9	1.8	
Florida	6.9	6.6	5.9	5.4	3.2	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.5	1.5	
Georgia	6.1	5.5	5.8	5.4	2.7	2.4	2.6	2.3	1.7	1.4	1.4	1.3	
Kentucky	8.7	9.3	8.4	8.4	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.1	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.5	
North Carolina	6.7	6.3	6.1	5.7	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.6	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.3	
South Carolina	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.7	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.7	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	
Tennessee	8.0	7.6	7.6	6.8	3.8	3.5	3.5	3.4	2.4	2.2	2.1	1.9	

<sup>1</sup> The incidence rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full-time workers and were calculated as:  $(N/EH) \times 200,000$ , where

N = number of injuries and illnesses

EH = total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year

200,000 = base for 100 full-time workers (working 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year).

<sup>2</sup> Excludes farms with fewer than 11 employees.

<sup>3</sup> Total lost workday cases involve days away from work, or days of restricted work activity, or both.

<sup>4</sup> Days-away-from-work include those which result in days away with or without restricted work activity.